

Sittingbourne and Milton
Urban District

Annual Report

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF

Sittingbourne and Milton

For the Year 1938

BY

HILDA K. BRADE-BIRKS

M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Acting Medical Officer of Health

SITTINGBOURNE:

W. J. PARRETT, LTD., "EAST KENT GAZETTE" OFFICE

1939

Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District Council

Chairman—A. J. BEDELLE.*

Vice-Chairman—F. L. WALSH.

COUNCILLOR REV. H. BRADBURN.*

„ A. L. BAKER.

„ T. BUGGS.

„ C. F. CLOKE.*

(Chairman of Health Committee).

„ L. M. EASTON.

„ H. FOSTER.

„ H. J. GOLDSMITH.*

„ Mrs. H. HARVEY.*

„ P. J. JEFFERY.*

„ E. J. LANDEN.

„ F. J. MILLEN.*

„ F. READ.

„ F. W. SEARS.*

„ A. S. WELLS.*

„ P. L. WELLS.*

NOTE.—Those marked * are Members of the Health Committee.

Clerk to the Council—G. H. POTTER.

Acting Medical Officer of Health—

HILDA K. BRADE-BIRKS, M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Infant Welfare Medical Officer—Dr. HILDA K.
BRADE-BIRKS.

Surveyors—

M. W. LASHMAR, M.Inst.M. and Cy.E.

A. W. CALLAWAY, M. & C.E., M.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector—

JOSEPH VARLEY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Health Visitors—

Miss W. B. HUDSON, State Registered Nurse, Health
Visitors' Certificate, State Certified Midwife.

Miss I. HEAP, State Registered Nurse, Health Visitors'
Certificate, State Certified Midwife.

(from April 20th, 1938).

SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

Health Department,
Church Street, Sittingbourne.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for the year 31st December, 1938.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the year is 20,950 compared with 20,880 in the previous year.

Birth Rate.

The corrected rate was 14.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This represents a fall as the figure for the previous year was 16.

Death Rate.

The corrected rate was 10.4 per 1,000 persons living. This is the lowest figure since the amalgamation of the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban Districts.

Infant Mortality Rate.

The death rate amongst infants during the first year of life was 33 per 1,000 estimated births. The rate for England and Wales was 53.

Tuberculosis Death Rate.

This was 0.3 per 1,000 of the population, the lowest figure since the amalgamation of the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban Districts.

Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent in the area during the year under review, but the cases were mild.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

This Department has had a very successful year. The appointment of a second Health Visitor has been amply justified. Attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics again reached a record figure: 5,967 attendances in 1938, as against 4,837 in 1937.

The Ante-Natal Clinic has well justified the increased number of sessions. The total attendances were 391, as compared with 240 for the year 1937, and the percentage attendance of total notified births has increased from 27.6 in 1937 to 44.1 in 1938.

Housing.

Normal progress has been made with housing. 159 new houses have been completed during the year, of which 28 were erected by your Council.

My sincere thanks are due to members of the staff for their loyal help and co-operation during another year. Duties in connection with Air Raid Precaution Evacuation plans have demanded much of the time of the Sanitary Inspector, yet all the normal duties of his office have been most satisfactorily executed.

May I again express how much I appreciate the kindness and consideration which your Council have extended to me during another year in which I have had the honour to act as your temporary Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HILDA K. BRADE-BIRKS,
M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres).—5,121.

Population (Census, 1931).—20,177. Registrar-General's estimate, 1938, 20,950. In 1937, it was 20,880.

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1938) *according to Rate Books*.—6,109.

Rateable Value.—£108,662/15/0.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1937-1938.—£429. The rate in the £ for the year for the Council's own purposes was 4/7½d.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
<i>Live Births</i> (Legitimate) ...	293	151	142
<i>Live Births</i> (Illegitimate) ...	10	6	4
<i>Stillbirths</i>	14	12	2
<i>Deaths</i>	218	115	103

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population.—14.4.

Still Births.—Rate per 1,000 total births, 44.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population.—10.4.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

Deaths.—Rate per 1,000 (live and still births), 3.1. Puerperal Sepsis, 1. Other Puerperal Causes, Nil. Total, 1.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births, 33; Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 30; Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 100.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).—31.

Deaths from Measles (all ages).—Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).—Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years of age).—Nil.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The estimate of the Registrar General for 1938 is 20,950, as compared with 20,880 for 1937. The Census return in 1931 was 20,177.

Birth Rate.—The total number of births registered was 303, consisting of 157 males and 146 females, equivalent to 14.4 per 1,000. In 1937 it was 16 per 1,000.

Death Rate.—The number of deaths of residents was 218, of which 115 were males and 103 were females, equivalent to 10.4 per 1,000. In 1937 it was 11.6 per 1,000. The chief causes of death were:—(1) Heart Disease; (2) Cancer; (3) Cerebral Hæmorrhage.

Natural Increase of Population.—The excess of births over deaths was 85, compared with 91 in the previous year.

Infantile Mortality.—During the year there were 10 deaths (7 boys and 3 girls) of infants under one year of age. There was one death of an illegitimate child.

Infectious Diseases.—During the year there were (including Tuberculosis) 123 cases notified, compared with 57 cases in the previous year. These included:—

Scarlet Fever.—95 cases, as compared with 20 in the previous year. Most of the cases were mild in type. There was one fatal case which was complicated with Heart Disease and Rheumatic Fever. 93 of the cases were treated in Hospital, and two at home.

Diphtheria.—Three cases as compared with two in the previous year. They were treated in Hospital. No fatal cases.

Typhoid Fever.—No cases occurred, and there were no cases in the previous year.

Tuberculosis.—There were 12 cases of Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary cases notified, as compared with 12 Pulmonary and 9 Non-Pulmonary cases in the previous year.

Other Notifiable Diseases.—Erysipelas, 6; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 2; 'Early Blindness,' 1.

Housing.—During the year 159 houses were built—131 by private enterprise and 28 by the Council.

A COMPARISON OF VITAL STATISTICS, ETC., OF 1938 WITH 1937.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality.	Typhoid.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis all forms.
1938	14.4	10.4	33	—	3	95	16
1937	16	11.6	32	—	2	20	21

Total Population. CENSUS, 1931—SUMMARY OF RETURNS. Private Families and Dwellings, 1931.

Parish.	Area in Statute Acres.	1921. Persons.	1931. Persons.	M.	F.	Persons per Acre.	Private Families.	Popula- tion in Private Families.	Structur- ally Separate Dwellings Occupied.	Rooms Occupied.	Persons per Room.
Sittingbourne and Milton	5,121	18,994	20,177	10,086	10,091	3.9	5,267	19,561	5,027	25,980	0.75
Central Ward ...	203	4,238	3,548	1,808	1,740	17.5	882	3,422	841	4,100	0.83
Chalkwell Ward...	182	3,307	3,006	1,506	1,500	16.5	784	2,957	744	4,005	0.73
East Ward ...	1,165	3,722	3,332	1,700	1,632	2.9	897	3,307	849	4,512	0.73
North Ward ...	1,950	2,621	3,670	1,931	1,739	1.9	850	3,358	812	3,851	0.87
South Ward ...	1,216	1,904	3,095	1,439	1,656	2.5	864	3,032	827	4,452	0.68
West Ward ...	405	3,202	3,526	1,702	1,824	8.7	990	3,485	954	5,010	0.70
Total	5,121	18,994	20,177	10,086	10,091	3.9	5,267	19,561	5,027	25,980	0.75

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, }
 ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, }
 MATERNAL DEATH - RATES, } (England and Wales,
 AND CASE-RATES for certain } London, 126 Great
 Infectious Diseases in the year 1938. } Towns and 148
 (Provisional Figures based on Weekly & Quarterly Returns.) } Smaller Towns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resi- dent Popu- lations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
Rates per 1,000 Population				
Births :—				
Live	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48
Deaths :—				
All Causes	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4
Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06
Scarlet fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria . . .	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06
Notifications :—				
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet fever ..	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90
Enteric fever ..	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46
Pneumonia	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1
Maternal Mortality :—				
Puerperal Sepsis ..	0.89	} Not available		
Others	2.19			
Total	3.08			
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality :—				
Puerperal Sepsis ..	0.86	} Not available		
Others	2.11			
Total	2.97			
Notifications :—				
Puerperal fever ..	14.42	18.08	12.51	3.53
Puerperal pyrexia ..				15.46

INFANT MORTALITY.

ALL AGES UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Males.	Females
Under Four Weeks	4	2
Four Weeks—Three Months	1	1
Three Months—Six Months	2	—
Six Months—Nine Months	—	—
Nine Months—Twelve Months	—	—
	—	—
	7	3
	—	—

ALL CAUSES UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Males.	Females.
Premature Birth	1	—
Congenital Defects	4	2
Gastro-enteritis	2	—
Broncho-pneumonia	—	1
	—	—
	7	3
	—	—

Here 6 deaths out of 10 occurred in the first four weeks of life, and 8 in the first three months; the chief causes being premature birth and congenital defects.

The number of infants' deaths in the preceding years were:—

1937	11
1936	12
1935	11
1934	18
1933	22

VACCINATIONS.

I have received the following information from the Vaccination Officer regarding Vaccinations in the district:—

1. Births during 1938	303
2. Successful Vaccinations	74
3. Postponed ,,	Nil
4. Objections	185
5. Insusceptible	Nil
6. Removed from District	1
7. Not found	3
8. Died before Vaccination	7
9. Owing to the Statutory period allowed.	
Cases awaiting Vaccination or Exemption	33

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Medical Officer Infant Welfare:—HILDA K. BRADE-
BIRKS, M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Health Visitors—MISS W. B. HUDSON,
S.N.R., R.S.I., S.C.M.

MISS I. HEAP,
S.N.R., R.S.I., S.C.M.
(from April 20th, 1938).

RETURNS GIVING PARTICULARS OF THE WORK
DONE DURING 1938.

1. Population of the area served by the Council, 20,950.
2. Number of births notified in the area during the year under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as adjusted by any transferred notifications:—(a) Live Births, 296; (b) Stillbirths, 11; (c) By Midwives, 249; (d) By Doctors and Parents, 66. Total, 315.

3. *Health Visiting.*

Number of Health Visitors employed at the end of the year:—

- (i) By the Council, 2.

Number of visits paid during the year by Health Visitors, 4,439.

- (i) To expectant mothers. First visits, 23. Total visits, 104.
- (ii) To children under 1 year of age. First visits, 278. Total visits, 1,828.
- (iii) To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years. Total visits, 2,507.

4. *Infant Welfare Centres.*

- (a) Number of Centres provided and maintained by the Council, 1.
- (b) Total number of attendances at the Centre during the year, 5,967.
 - (i) By children under 1 year of age, 3,902.
 - (ii) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years, 2,065.
- (c) Total number of children who first attended at the Centre during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were:—
 - (i) Under 1 year of age, 197.
 - (ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years, 17.
- (d) Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centre during the year and who at the end of the year were:—
 - (i) Under 1 year of age, 167.
 - (ii) Over 1 year of age, 307.

- (e) Percentage of notified live births represented by the number in (d) (i), 66.5.
- (f) Total number of children who received Dental treatment was 10.

5. *Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Services.*

- (i) Number of Clinics provided and maintained by the Council, 1.
- (ii) Total number of attendances at the Clinic during the year, 391.
- (iii) Total number of women who attended at the Clinic during the year, 139.
- (iv) Percentage of total notified births (live and still) represented by the total number of women shown under 5 (iii), 44.1.
- (v) Number of women sent during the year to a Maternity Institution, 5.

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

During the year 5 patients attended the Orthopædic Out-Patients' Clinic at Sheerness on 42 occasions.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

Number of women who died in, or in consequence of, childbirth in the area served by the Committee for Maternity and Child Welfare during the year:—

- (1)—From sepsis, 1.
- (2)—From other causes, nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Number of cases notified during the year.	Number of cases visited by Officers of the Council.	Number of cases where home nursing was provided by the Council.	Number of Cases removed to Hospital.
(1) Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	Nil	Nil
(2) Pemphigus Neonatorum ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3) Puerperal Pyrexia ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(4) Measles and German Measles (in children under 5 years of age)	Not notifiable	—	—	—
(5) Whooping Cough ...	,,	—	—	—
(6) Epidemic Diarrhoea ...	,,	—	—	—
(7) Poliomyelitis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

(a) Vision was unimpaired	2
(b) Vision impaired	Nil
(c) Vision lost	Nil
(d) Patients still under treatment at the end of the Year	Nil
(e) Died	Nil
(f) Removed from the District	Nil
Total	2

Approximate average weekly attendances at Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres:—

CHURCH STREET CENTRE. (Twice weekly)	TODDLERS' CENTRE. (Monthly)
Mothers, 105. Babies, 106.	Children 2-5 years. 36 per month.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

During the year there were 391 attendances of 139 expectant mothers, compared with 240 attendances of 91 expectant mothers during 1937.

In necessitous cases help is given in the form of fresh or dried milk, oil and malt, etc.

During the year the total amount of milk granted to mothers and children under the Milk Order, free, was:— 6,293 pints of milk; 163 packets of dried milk.

Dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers is in force. The number of mothers applying for and receiving dental treatment during 1938 was 30.

Bad teeth in expectant mothers is a potential source of infection, and may be a contributory factor in the production of puerperal pyrexia, and may also affect the supply and quality of breast milk in the nursing mother.

ADMISSION OF CONFINEMENT CASES TO HOSPITAL.

Arrangements have been made with the Royal Naval and Marine Maternity Nursing Home, Gillingham, and at Cliff House Maternity Home, Minster, Sheppey, for the reception of patients in complicated cases, where the home conditions of the patients are unsuitable.

During the year five patients were admitted at reduced fees.

TREATMENT OF SQUINT.

The services of the School Oculist and the facilities of the School Ophthalmic Clinic are available for cases of squint in children under school age. The School Oculist examined the eyes of five children during the past year, and spectacles were prescribed in three cases.

MIDWIVES.

The number of Midwives practising in the area served by the Committee for Maternity and Child Welfare at the end of the year was six.

Four of these are employed by the Kent County Council under the Midwives Act, 1936.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Arrangements for treatment of these cases have been made with the following Hospitals:—

Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.

7/- per day for mother and child, or 4/6 per day if child only admitted.

Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital, Maidstone.

£3 3s per week for mother and child, or £2 2s. per week if child only admitted.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

Admission only until transfer can be arranged to Ophthalmic Institution.

Number of cases notified during the year, two, both treated at home.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION (Sections 206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

- (a) Number of persons who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year, 3.
- (b) Number of children on the Register:—
 - (1) At the end of the year, 4.
 - (2) Who died during the year, none.
 - (3) On whom inquests were held during the year, none.
- (c) Number of cases in which the Local Authority has given a sanction during the year:—
 - (1) Under Section 210 of the Public Health Act, 1936, nil.
 - (2) Under (b), nil.
 - (3) Under (c), nil.
- (d) Number of orders obtained during the year under Section 212 of the Public Health Act, 1936.
 - (1) From a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, nil.
 - (2) From a single Justice, nil.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES (SECTIONS
187 to 194 of the PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936).

Return of the work of the Council during 1938.

Number of Homes		Number of Patients provided for		
		Maternity Patients	Others	Totals
Homes first registered during the year ...	—	—	—	—
Homes on the register at the end of the year ...	1	1	—	1
	1	4	2	6
	2	5	2	7

Action during 1938:—

Number of applications for registration refused:—

(I)	under proviso (a) to Section 187 (3)	Nil
(II)	„ „ (b) „ „ „	Nil
(III)	„ „ (c) „ „ „	Nil
(IV)	„ „ (d) „ „ „	Nil

Number of registrations cancelled under Section 188 Nil

Number of appeals by aggrieved persons to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, under Section 189 (3) Nil

Number of cases in which fines were imposed Nil

Number of inspections... One

Number of registered homes not inspected One

The inspections are made by the Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH REGISTERED DURING 1938.

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Influenza	1	—	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	6	2	8
Other Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Cancer	17	14	31
Diabetes	2	2	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ..	5	12	17
Heart Disease ..	35	31	66
Other Circulatory Diseases	10	6	16
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	8	12
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Syphilis	1	1	2
Peptic Ulcer	2	—	2
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3	4	7
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	5	8
Other Liver Diseases	—	1	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	1
Congenital Causes, etc.	5	2	7
Suicide	3	—	3
Other Violence	5	3	8
Other Defined Diseases (including Old Age)	9	8	17
Totals ..	115	103	218

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE
YEAR 1938.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and over.
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	8	...	...	...	...	1	2	5	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Cancer	31	...	...	...	...	...	3	14	14
Diabetes	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc	17	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	16
Heart Disease	66	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	61
Other Circulatory Diseases	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	11
Bronchitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia, all forms ...	12	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilis	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Peptic Ulcer	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Appendicitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases	7	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5
Other Liver Diseases ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Sepsis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Congenital Causes, etc. ...	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicide	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
Other Violence	8	...	...	1	...	1	3	3	...
Other Defined Diseases (including Old Age) ...	17	...	1	...	...	...	4	4	8
Totals 1938 ...	218	10	2	1	...	3	22	47	135
Totals 1937 ...	244	11	3	5	6	6	21	57	135

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Nursing in the Home.—Two District Nurses provided by the Sittingbourne, Milton Regis and Murston Nursing Association.

Midwives.—Six, four of these are employed by the Kent County Council under the Midwives Act, 1936.

Health Clinics and Treatment Centres.—Minor Ailments Clinic, Albany Street, Sittingbourne, Saturday mornings, 9.30 a.m. By County Council.

Dental Clinic.—Albany Street, Sittingbourne, Mondays (all day); Saturday mornings; Thursdays, before 10 a.m. By County Council.

Ophthalmic Clinic.—2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays. By County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—One, Health Department, Church Street, Sittingbourne, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 2 to 4. By Local Authority.

Toddlers' Clinic.—Health Department, Church Street, Sittingbourne, 2nd Thursday in the month, from 10 a.m. to 12. By Local Authority.

Clinics for Expectant Mothers.—Held at Health Department, Church Street, Sittingbourne, 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Thursdays in the month, from 10 a.m. to 12. By Local Authority.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.—Albany Street, Sittingbourne, Mondays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. By County Council.

HOSPITALS.

1. Royal Naval and Marine Maternity Nursing Home, Barnsole Road, Gillingham. Arrangements have been made by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee by which local patients desiring admission for confinement can be received at reduced fees. Similar arrangements have also been made at Cliff House Maternity Home, Minster, Sheppey.

2. A. Keycol Hill Infectious Hospital. No. of beds 110, provided by Local Authorities.
- B. Keycol Hill Tuberculosis Sanatorium. No. of beds 51 (by Kent County Council).
3. Memorial Hospital, Sittingbourne. No. of beds 14, and 3 cots.

Institutional Treatment for Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.—There is none in the District.

Ambulance Facilities.—(1) For infectious cases. The Local Authorities provide a Motor Ambulance. (2) For non-infectious and accident cases. The Local Authority provides a Motor Ambulance.

A Motor Ambulance is also provided by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Messrs. Edward Lloyd, Ltd., Sittingbourne.

These facilities appear to be adequate.

Laboratory Work.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, and analyses of water, etc., by the County Analyst, Maidstone

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Sanitary Inspector.—Certified Royal Sanitary Institute, Certified Meat Inspector.

Health Visitors.—Two. State Registered Nurses, and Health Visitors' Certificates, State Certified Midwives.

NOTIFIABLE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	95	93	1
Diphtheria	3	3	Nil
Erysipelas	6	6	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	Nil	Nil
"Early Blindness"	1	Nil	Nil

SCHOOL NOTIFICATIONS OF NON-NOTIFIABLE
DISEASES DURING 1938.

	Whooping Cough	Chicken Pox	Mumps	Pink Eye	Tonsill- itis	Measles
January ...	1	28	8	1	—	—
February ...	—	78	7	—	—	—
March ...	—	34	8	—	1	—
April ...	—	2	—	—	—	—
May ...	—	—	—	16	—	2
June ...	—	—	—	4	—	—
July ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
August ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
September ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
October ...	—	—	—	—	—	2
November ...	—	—	2	—	—	—
December ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	142	25	21	1	4

Chicken-Pox was very prevalent in the spring.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

It was arranged in December, 1938, that the notification of cases of threatened blindness by Medical Practitioners should be made to the County Medical Officer of Health, the County Medical Officer of Health to inform the Local Medical Officer of Health of any notifications received of persons residing in his District. This came into force January 1st, 1939.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 12 notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis of the Lungs, as compared with 12 in 1937.

The figures for the years 1934 to 1938 were as follows :—

Year.	Pulmonary.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Non- Pulmonary.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
1934	15	0.7	3	0.1
1935	12	0.5	6	0.2
1936	12	0.5	5	0.2
1937	12	0.6	9	0.4
1938	12	0.5	4	0.1

Notifications of Tuberculosis in this district good.

One death from Tuberculosis had not been notified.

The Regulations of 1925 provide for the compulsory discontinuance of a person suffering from tuberculosis of the lungs, and who is in an infectious state, from employment involving the handling, etc., of milk. No action was taken under them during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1930.

Under these Regulations the Medical Officer of Health is required to keep an up-to-date register of all notified cases.

		Non-		
		Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Total.
No. on Register,				
1st Jan., 1938	.....	144	46	190
No. on Register,				
31st Dec., 1938	.....	145	46	191

Of the above cases, 6 were cured, 10 died, including 1 who died from another disease, and 4 removed to other districts.

Twenty-one fresh cases were added to the Register.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

There was no necessity to take any action under these Regulations. The Regulations provide for the compulsory removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Table compiled from Local Records, giving details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases and deaths during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmon.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmon.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5 .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...
5-10 .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
10-15 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-20	2	1	...	...	.	1	...	...
20-35	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	1
35-45	1	1	...	.	1	..	...	...
45-55 ...	4	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
55-65	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 & over	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	9	3	1	3	6	2	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE.

The death rate was lower than in the previous year.

According to the Registrar-General's returns deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs numbered 6, giving a death rate of 0.2 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 0.6 per 1,000 in the previous year, and from other forms 2, or a death rate of 0.09 per 1,000 of the population.

The following table is inserted for the purposes of comparison :—

Year.	Deaths.			Death Rates per 1,000 of Population.		
	All Forms	Pulmon.	Non-Pulmon.	All Forms	Pulmon.	Non-Pulmon.
1934	19	18	1	0.9	0.8	0.04
1935	12	8	4	0.5	0.3	0.1
1936	11	10	1	0.5	0.4	0.04
1937	12	12	—	0.6	0.6	—
1938	8	6	2	0.3	0.2	0.09

TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of patients from this district dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during 1938, as supplied by Dr. John Robson, Tuberculosis Officer :—

1. Number of new cases who attended from the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District during 1938 49
2. Number sent to Institutions 26

There were 233 attendances by patients from the Urban District.

AGES OF CASES NOTIFIED.

		Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Scarlet Fever	...	—	3	2	3	11	42	22	5	5	1	1	—	95
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
“ Early Blindness ”	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	... ..	2	3	2	4	11	45	25	5	5	1	1	3	107

PREMISES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

Houses Let in Lodgings.—There are 3 houses let in lodgings, and 3 Common Lodging Houses. Frequent visits are made to ensure compliance with the bye-laws.

Fried Fish Shops.—There are 10 in the District.

Rag and Bone Dealers.—There are 3 in the District.

Bakehouses.—Eight.

Meat.—There are 10 Slaughter Houses in the District.

During 1933 “ The Slaughter of Animals Act ” was passed. This Act includes the use of a mechanically operated instrument for the stunning of animals before slaughter, and the licensing of slaughter men. As a result, all bovines and pigs slaughtered in your District are first stunned with a mechanically operated instrument.

At a meeting of the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District Council held in January, 1938, the resolution was passed that sheep and rams should also be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument before slaughter.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEAT REGULATIONS.

Under these Regulations three hours’ notice is required to be given of intending slaughtering, except where it is the regular practice to slaughter at fixed times and on fixed days.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ..	484	30	41	1007	2082
Number inspected	484	30	41	1007	2082
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis:—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	4	—	—	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	2·5	13·3	—	—	·4
<i>Tuberculosis only:—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	·4	3·3	—	—	·09

MILK.

There are 2 cowkeepers, 7 milkshops and dairies, and 31 purveyors of milk.

A number of shopkeepers are selling “Sterilised Milk,” which is sold in bottles only. There is 1 retailer of Tuberculin Tested milk and 1 retailer of Pasteurised milk in the district.

Frequent inspections are made of premises where milk is produced and retailed, and in addition periodical samples are taken for bacteriological examination.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This involves inspection of dairies, cowsheds, bakehouses, butchers' shops, slaughter houses, fried fish shops, ice cream stores, pressed and preserved meat premises, and restaurants.

Specimens of milk are taken for examination for the number of organisms present, and also tested for the presence of Bovine Tubercle Bacilli, but the County Council is the responsible authority for sampling under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION)
ACT, 1928.

I am indebted to the Deputy Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for a report on the administration of this Act.

Samples taken in the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1938.

Milk	27
Butter	7
Sugar	2
Margarine	5
Ground Rice	1
Castor Oil	2
Cream	2
Sauce	1
Baking Powder	1
Cocoa	1
Coffee	1
Dried Apricots	1
Ground Linseed	1
Camphorated Oil	1
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Total Samples	53
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Proceedings were instituted in one case for Milk found deficient in fat, and a fine of 5s. was imposed.

PARTICULARS OF THE ACTION TAKEN FOR
THE ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1)	(i)	(a) The number of Council houses found to be infested	3
		(b) The number of other houses found to be infested	14
	(ii)	Disinfested	17

- (2) The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs:—

Fumigation by special fumigating blocks.

Spraying with insecticide. “Zaldecide.”

- (3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses:—

Where in doubt houses and furniture are first inspected.

- (4) Whether the work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority or by a contractor:—

As regards Council houses by the Local Authority.

As regards other houses by the occupants and owners.

- (5) The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation or re-infestation after cleansing:—

Visited by Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY.

Bacteriological examinations of water were made during the year and were found satisfactory.

The following is a result of a bacteriological examination of a sample of water taken from the Highsted Water Supply:—

RESULT OF EXAMINATION.

No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at:		<i>B. coli</i> (presumptive).	Other Tests.
37° C.	22° C.		
0	0	Absent from 100 c.c.	—

Remarks: Good water.

(Signed) E. R. JONES,
Pathologist.

The above is a typical example of the water supplied to the area.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1938.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of work carried out in my Department during the year 1938:—

Total number of Inspections made	5003
Water Supply. Samples taken	38
Drainage	54
Offensive Trades	90
Common Lodging Houses	111
Houses Let in Lodgings	34
Tents, Vans and Sheds	72
Factories, Workshops (including Bakehouses)	183
Public Conveniences	67
Rats and Mice Acts	26
Smoke Observation	7
Schools	56
Petrol Storage Regulations	34
Infectious Cases	116
Slaughter Houses and Foodshops.....	1406
Carcases inspected	3644
Cowsheds and Dairies.....	131
Samples of Milk examined.....	61
Ice Cream Premises	6
Housing Inspections	2163
Complaints received and dealt with.....	37
Miscellaneous	419
Informal Notices served	268
Statutory Notices served	10

HOUSING (Inspection of District) REGULATIONS.

As in previous years, a considerable part of my time has been taken up in the inspection of houses.

In addition to the systematic inspections, which entail the inspection of every room, general inspections are frequently made, which consists of inspections of back premises, thereby keeping in touch with the tenants, who then have the opportunity of informing me of any serious defect or nuisance.

The majority of owners or agents readily respond to Intimation Notices sent for defects found in the course of inspections. It was only found necessary in 10 cases to serve Statutory Notices.

Good progress has been made during the year in dealing with overcrowded families. At the beginning of the year there were 9 overcrowded houses; occupants have moved to other houses, and I am able to report that there are no overcrowded houses in your District, according to the standard laid down in the Housing Act, 1936.

There are still some houses without an indoor water tap, but all the owners have been approached, and I am able to report that many of them have carried out this desirable improvement, 75 houses having been dealt with.

During the year 17 houses have been demolished.

The following table shows in detail the work carried out:—

Number of houses inspected and details recorded	491
General inspection of houses.....	1672
Re-inspections	328
Intimation Notices served	268
Statutory Notices served	10
Number of defects remedied	357

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Walls, Roofs and Ceilings repaired	82
Doors and Windows	23
Eaves, Guttering and Downpipes.....	18
Floors	24
Grates, Coppers, repaired or renewed ..	17
New Sinks	19
Drains cleared and repaired	20
Water Closets repaired	31
Sanitary Ash Bins renewed	92
Miscellaneous	31

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are 3 Common Lodging Houses in the District, situated in Flushing Street, Gas Road, and High Street, Milton.

These have a total accommodation of 99 beds—45, 30 and 24 respectively.

Frequent visits are made at varying times, and generally speaking they have been kept in a clean condition.

There are 3 Houses “Let-in-Lodgings.”

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of Diphtheria (3), Scarlet Fever (95), Erysipelas (6), and Pulmonary Tuberculosis (12), were investigated and disinfection carried out after the patients had been removed to Hospital. Where several cases occurred in one School, classrooms and books were also disinfected.

Library books used by patients are disinfected before being returned.

FACTORIES ACT.

There are 93 Factories, including 8 Bakehouses on the Register. Thirty-nine of these are premises where no "mechanical power" is used, and are under the control of the Local Authority. During the year The Factories Act, 1937, came into force and further duties were allocated to District Councils.

Periodical inspections have been made, special attention being given to cleanliness, ventilation and sanitary accommodation. I found the premises kept in a satisfactory condition.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary arrangements in connection with the Schools are frequently inspected and usually found in a clean and satisfactory condition.

With one exception—Holy Trinity Schools—all are provided with the "individual pan" type of Water Closet with proper flushing cisterns.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are in the District 2 Cowkeepers, 7 Milkshops and Dairies, and 81 Purveyors of Milk. A number of shops are retailing "Sterlised Milk" which is sold in bottles only. We have in our District 1 retailer of "Tuberculin Tested Milk" and 1 retailer of Pasteurised Milk.

Every effort is made to maintain a high standard of cleanliness. Frequent inspections are made of the premises where the milk is produced and retailed and attention paid

to the condition of cattle and utensils. In addition samples are taken regularly for bacteriological examination. Sixty-one samples were taken during the year, and a high standard was maintained. No sample showed evidence of tubercle infection.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

There are 43 Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum, representing approximately 50,000 gallons of Petrol being stored in your District.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND FOODSHOPS.

The inspection of Meat takes up a considerable part of my time as every effort is made to see all animals slaughtered or the carcasses soon after.

There are 10 slaughter houses, situated as follows:—

High Street, Milton	1	London Road	1
Church Street, Milton ...	2	Eastbourne Street ...	1
High St., Sittingbourne...	1	Station Street	1
East St., Sittingbourne...	3		

During the year 3,644 carcasses were inspected, and it was found necessary to condemn as unfit for human consumption 24 cwt. 3 qrts. and 9 lbs. of meat, compared with 16 cwt. in 1937.

In every case voluntary surrender was made. The following table shows details of meat condemned:—

3 Bovine Carcasses (Tuberculosis)	1948 lbs.
2 Pig Carcasses (Tuberculosis)	408 lbs.
Livers, Offal, etc.	292 lbs.
Imported Meat	48 lbs.
Fish	49 lbs.
Miscellaneous	36 lbs.
	<hr/>
	2781 lbs.
	<hr/>

In addition to the 10 Slaughter Houses, there are 22 Butchers' Shops, 10 Fried Fish Shops, and 16 Fish Shops in the District.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Under this Act it is the duty of the occupier of lands and buildings to take all necessary steps to destroy rats and mice on or in lands or buildings and to prevent the premises becoming infested.

All complaints have been promptly dealt with and advice given. A supply of reliable Rat Poison is kept at my Office and sold at cost price, 6d. per packet.

I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for their helpful co-operation and support during the year.

I beg to remain,

Yours obediently,

JOSEPH VARLEY,

Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

1.—*Inspection of Dwelling Houses:—*

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2163
Number of inspections made for that purpose	2519
(2) Number of dwelling houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	652
Number of inspections made for that purpose	762
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	160

2.—*Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices:—*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of <i>informal</i> action by the Local Authority or their officers	150
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3.—*Action under Statutory Powers:—*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	10
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	118
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which such defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	118
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
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D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

E. Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.):—

(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	0
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	0
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	0
(4) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	0
(5) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	12

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (6) | Number of persons concerned in such cases ... | 105 |
| (7) | Number of cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after action taken for the abatement of overcrowding ... | 0 |
| (8) | Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report:— | |

12 houses with 4 Bedrooms to accommodate large families have been completed.

